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FRANK A. MUNSEY

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1908.

Chairman Smith and a Public Utilities Commission Bill.

It is some satisfaction to The Times to be able to agree with Chairman Smith of the House Committee on District of Columbia in the matter of a public service commission. Mr. Smith announces that he is in favor of establishing such a commission, the members to be appointed by the President. He has promised that he will press this measure, which he believes represents the most satisfactory solution of the problem of control and regulation of the public service corporations.

Now if Chairman Smith will just look into the argument for repeal of the gas inflation section of the law of 1896, and permit himself to be convinced that that enactment ought to be wiped from the statutes, he and The Times will be quite in accord. If he will ask the opinions of the District Commissioners, of the Corporation Counsel, or of any good and disinterested lawyer, he can secure confirmation of the position of this paper, that that section, so long as it is not repealed, constitutes a menace to effectiveness of a public utilities commission. For if the Supreme Court shall sustain that inflation law, and the Gas Monopoly shall issue a few millions more of stock under its authority, to just that extent will the usefulness of a commission be limited.

The general disposition now manifest in Congress, to turn over the regulation of public service facilities to a commission, is naturally most gratifying to The Times, in view of its long advocacy of such a course. It will be a greater victory for the public interest than even this newspaper had hoped to secure in so short a time, if such a law passes at this session of Congress. True, the chance of its passage is not yet to be set down as brilliant. It is a big and difficult piece of legislation, and only the vigorous and united insistence of the District's friends in Congress, and especially of those on the District Committees of both houses, can possibly make success possible at this session.

Congress has been coming rapidly to realize the utter impossibility of keeping in its own hands all these questions of regulation. It must delegate the power, or the power will not be used; that is the long and short of the matter. Legislatures of States and councils of cities have long recognized that, and public service commissions, gas commissions, railroad commissions, and the like have been delegated the powers which originally belonged to legislature, but which in the nature of things it was impracticable for legislature to attempt to enforce. Certainly the National Capital is entitled to as enlightened and considerate treatment as other cities receive.

We congratulate Chairman Smith on getting hold of the public service commission question at the right place.

Our Winning Diplomacy.

Two impressive comments on American diplomacy have been made within the week. One was by Baron Takahira, the Japanese ambassador. We refer to his reference to the "legitimate cause" which, as he says, is "always at the foundation of American diplomacy." The other is the comment made by the London Standard on the subject of the treaty now negotiating between Great Britain and the United States.

"From experience of past dealings with Washington," says the Standard, "it is natural to infer that smooth progress means a surrender on the part of our representatives. . . . Owing to the culpable simplicity or assured timidity of our ambassadors and secretaries of state our successive conventions, such as have been ratified by the United States Senate, mark so many abandonments of what undoubtedly were British claims and most of us believe were also British rights. It would be ill mannered to complain and futile to repine in taking stock of our diplomatic failures. We are but paying the highest possible compliment to the energy and resource of American citizenship."

The legitimacy of the cause is what has made American diplomacy successful in practically all its undertaking in recent times. Olney, Hay, and Root have one after the other made victorious the straight and square deal. Takahira understands this. The Standard doesn't. Otherwise it would have more confidence in Ambassador Bryce, who is more like the typical American envoy than anyone Britain has so far sent to us.

Postal Savings Banks.

So far all the information gathered on the subject tends to support Postmaster General Meyer's suggestion to establish postal savings banks. From Paris now comes a report by Consul General Mason to the effect that such banks as these are a veritable bulwark to the monetary system of France. Here is a summary of the report:

The postal savings bank system was established in France in 1881, there are 8,000 of them in operation, there are 4,000,000 depositors, and the total sum of the deposits \$240,000,000, an average of \$30 for each depositor. The government limits each person to a deposit of \$250; nothing in excess of that sum will be carried on deposit for any individual. It is, therefore, only

persons whose money savings are small that confine themselves to the postal banks, and it can be imagined that these government institutions are training schools which educate the people to transfer themselves and their money savings to the non-government banks and the branches of the Bank of France. The non-government savings banks have deposits aggregating \$600,000,000.

In his last annual report Mr. Meyer argued that a chain of these banks would keep in circulation a large amount of money now kept out of circulation. The fact that the banks would be conducted under Government auspices would be attractive to many thrifty persons who have little or no confidence in the ordinary savings banks. Mr. Mason's report shows that it works so in France, and that but for the postal savings banks much of the \$240,000,000 now in circulation would probably be stowed away in the traditional hiding places.

Another point to be considered is that such a scheme would appeal to immigrants already familiar with postal savings banks and trusting in them. Thus a great deal of money now sent abroad for safe keeping would be held back in the United States.

A Lesson in Government.

Japan gets ahead because she delivers the goods. That's the plain English of it. On a civilization nearly as ancient as that of China, she has in two generations grafted practically all that is good in the newer civilization of the Occident. The Charleston News and Courier illustrates this by outlining a section of the new Japanese criminal code:

Each prisoner is treated just as though he were diseased, his case is studied by an expert in criminology and everything that goes to his cure is done. He is fed and his weakened moral constitution. What is still more important, the prisoner is cured for after he has served his sentence, when released, he is placed in a position to begin life anew, he is encouraged and helped.

The theory of the Japanese law is that the punishment explains the crime, that the thief who has served six months for robbing a henroast has purged himself of the offense, and that he is entitled to be regarded as cleansed. Therefore, the laws should protect him from further punishment—social ostracism and the sneers and gibes of the populace, for example. Statutes have been enacted making the mentioning of a criminal in damages, and the people are not allowed to cite his past record as an argument against giving him employment.

Thus the convict is enabled to remain in his own community, and is not driven, as in the United States, to change his name and hide himself where his antecedents are unknown. Nor is he left an outcast and therefore to be easily tempted to enter anew upon a career of crime.

How much is there for us of America! First thoughts are given

to reform, not to punishment. Imprisonment is regarded as explanation, and so the convict is protected and helped to find employment on his release. His old neighbors are required by law to give him a chance. Incidentally, the state profits not only through the saving of later jailer fees, but through the earning power of a citizen reclaimed.

Compare that enlightenment with the counsel that has guided our penal and correctional methods in the District of Columbia. We punish but do not reform—or if we do reform it is not our fault. It is a rare prisoner here is treated as though he were the victim of a disease that could be cured. He cannot be released even on probation. When he has served his term out he comes—branded. As though this were not enough, the Capital of the United States has not even decent jail quarters for such as are not to be reformed.

The contrast will not make any of us swell up and burst.

This story that Germany is going to buy the Philippines, and pay us all that we have invested in them, ought to give the stock market a upward turn. If we get all that money back, there's going to be a good deal more danger of inflation than of money scarcity.

President Roosevelt's idea is that railroads which are charging wage reductions to "hostile legislation" should be required to file a bill of particulars.

The Paper trust having been duly busted and prices having been duly advanced since the busting, it is now announced that a new merger of the demergered concerns will be formed. The circle will presently be complete.

The charge that the last conservative government in England sold titles for campaign funds is being exploited in most circumstantial fashion, but the small prices received for them in comparison to those paid by American heiresses suggest that Mr. Balfour was a mighty bad bargainer.

The Episcopal convention of Delaware after a long siege of futile balloting in the effort to elect a bishop has adjourned for two months. Horrible thought: is possible that Addicks is now running for bishop?

Just a few more weeks now, until the Taft and the anti-Taft forces will both have carried every State south of Mason and Dixon's line.

All this anti-war talk naturally tends to create fear that after all there may be some danger of war.

TALKS WITH NATURE.

"I think you're quite funny," I said. To the river: "for while you've a bed, You're awake night and day, And run on yet you stay; And your mouth is so far from your head."

I said to the hill: "I'll allow You have a most wonderful brow, But you've such a big foot That you'd never can put On a shoe of the style they use now."

I said to the tree: "You are queer; Your trunk is all packed, but I fear You can't leave until spring, When a curious thing— You must still remain standing right here."

To a green-red blackberry I said: "I know you are green when you're red, And you're red when you're green, But to say what I mean Is enough to bedevil one's head." —St. Nicholas.

HAITI THREATENS CLASH WITH FOREIGN CONSULS

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti, Feb. 20.—President Nord Alexis is nearer a clash today with the French and German ministers and Spanish consul at Cap-Haïtien than at any time since leaders of the recent Haitian rebellion took refuge with the diplomats.

Alexis is not prepared, indeed, to go to the extent of invading the diplomats' homes, but, learning that attempts are to be made to smuggle the refugees out of the country, he has so securely bottled up the ports that their escape is virtually impossible.

The diplomats are inclined to regard this as a grave affront. The President says he considers the security of his government at stake, and thinks he may as well risk French, German, and Spanish anger as the certainty of the revolutionary outbreaks which are sure to follow if malcontents consider themselves safe from punishment.

PILGRIMS GIVE DINNER TO AMBASSADOR REID

NEW YORK, Feb. 20.—Three hundred members of the Pilgrims of the United States, with headquarters in New York and an allied organization in London, the one composed of representative Americans, the other of residents of Great Britain, whose common purpose is to foster the friendly relations existing between the United States and England, gathered in the banquet room of Delmonico's last night and gave the official "Salve et Vale" of the American branch to Whitelaw Reid, the American ambassador to the Court of St. James, who departs for his post on the Baltic today.

After drinking a "compound" toast to the President of the United States and to the King of England and a single one to the departing ambassador, the diners rose en masse, and proclaimed Mr. Reid a "jolly good fellow."

January Circulation Figures

Net Daily Average:

The Times..... 41,501
The Star..... 37,128

LET AGAIN HOME, GOES TO CAPTOL

Urges Committee to Favor Bill for Philippine Commission.

Will Leave Tomorrow for Washington Day Dinner in Buffalo.

Secretary Taft returned to Washington today. He appeared before the House Committee on Insular Affairs at 11 o'clock, and made a brief argument in favor of the bill for increasing the membership of the Philippines Commission from eight to nine members.

As a result of the Secretary's speech, the committee reported the bill to the House for passage. Mr. Taft then went to the War Department.

Secretary Taft will leave Washington again tomorrow evening. He will go to Buffalo, where he will be the principal speaker at the Elliott Club banquet on Washington's birthday. He will be back in Washington, Sunday.

Taft Makes Addresses To Cheering Crowds In New England Towns

LOWELL, Mass., Feb. 20.—Secretary of War William H. Taft concluded a two-day visit to New Hampshire and Massachusetts last evening, and left Lowell for Boston, where he boarded the Federal express at 9 o'clock last night for Washington. The Secretary delivered two addresses, one in Nashua, N. H., yesterday afternoon, which was devoted entirely to a description of the work being carried on by the Government in the Philippines, and to the progress being made in building the Panama canal. Last evening he addressed the members of the Lowell Board of Trade.

At Nashua, Mr. Taft was welcomed by Mayor Albert Shedd in the presence of a cheering crowd. After a noon lunch he held a reception, and about 200 of the leading business men at Nashua were introduced to him. He was then escorted to a hall, where he gave a talk on the Philippines, and the Panama canal before a large audience. In his address, Mr. Taft said in part: "Within recent years, the United States has advanced to the position of one of the world's powers, although this advancement has been the result in part of a war which was practically thrust upon us as a people."

"The possession of the Philippines and Porto Rico yields a far greater influence among the world's nations than we at home suppose. The visit of sixteen battleships to the Pacific will have an excellent effect for peace rather than for war. We are not going about the world with a chip on our shoulder. We are not hunting war. That is the last thing that this country wants. "Gingoes in Japan and in America are largely responsible for the war rumors that are in circulation. What under heaven was I to fight Japan for? Reports of war with Japan should be stamped upon at every opportunity, and that is what I am trying to do. "I approached no danger from the civilization of China as some people profess. The argument has been that if China comes into competition with us we will be wiped out commercially. I hold that the more the Chinese are civilized in order that they will represent for the United States."

RIGHT TO VOTE IN THE DISTRICT URGED BY LEAGUE

Holding up the Dilliver bill for the abolishment of the present school system as a striking example of the helplessness of the citizens of the District, when it comes to a matter of influencing legislation, William F. Guide, with other speakers, demanded suffrage in the District at a meeting of the Independent Suffrage League last night.

"There is no doubt that the citizens of this District should be represented on the floor of the House and Senate," said Mr. Guide. "Had we this representation it would not be possible to railroad through some autocratic bill like the Dilliver measure, regardless of the interests of the whole people and without giving the opposite side a chance to be heard."

"The Dilliver bill is a striking example of what we are up against, and if we had the suffrage and were represented as we should be in Congress, our representatives would demand a hearing. As it is, those who have opposed the Dilliver plan have been denied a hearing, before the committee that reported adversely on the bill. Thus we have the statement of a few disgruntled people, who did appear for the other side, influencing legislation which affects over 150,000 teachers, 50,000 school children, and 200,000 people, and we are helpless."

Mr. Guide spoke against the disfranchisement plan now in vogue here, as did President Samuel Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor. President Gompers attacked the Commission and the present form of government. He styled the Commissioners "irresponsible," and heartily advocated suffrage for the people of the District in order that they might have a voice in their own government.

At the conclusion of the addresses a committee of five was named to draft a petition to be circulated in the District to obtain signatures of all persons in favor of such suffrage.

The meeting of the league was held in Old Fellows Hall, and was presided over by Dr. Robert Reburn, candidate for Republican delegate to the national convention.

CONSULAR SERVICE BILL FAVORED BY COMMITTEE

Senator Cullom, of the Committee on Foreign Relations, has made a favorable report to the Senate on the bill classifying the consular service. Amendments have been favorably reported from this committee to the diplomatic and consular appropriation bill, making appropriations for over \$1,000,000 for purchase of sites and erection of buildings for consular uses in Japan, China, and Korea, and \$400,000 for the purchase and repair of the building used by the American embassy in Paris.

Sponsors' Society Elects Officers: Adopts By-Laws THREE OF SPONSORS



MISS STELLA TATE, Daughter of Former Representative Tate of Georgia, Who Is One of the Most Enthusiastic Sponsors.

MISS JUANITA LALLANDE, MISS GLADYS SMITH.

Miss Mary Campbell Chosen President of New Organization.

America's youngest and most exclusive woman's society is now a fact for today the Society of American Naval Sponsors was formally organized, a constitution drawn up and officers elected.

Miss Mary Campbell, of Birmingham, Ala., through whose efforts the sponsors were brought together and the society formed, was unanimously elected president. Miss Campbell's election was accomplished amid great enthusiasm. Earlier in the day, when it was suggested that she would undoubtedly be chosen chief officer of the society, Miss Campbell declared the honor must go to an older member of the society, but her associates thought differently, and the fair sponsor of the Birmingham was elected without a dissenting vote.

Other Officers. Miss Edith Frazier, daughter of Senator Frazier of Tennessee, who christened the Tennessee, was elected first vice president; Miss Minnie Conrad, second vice president; Miss Ida May Scheirein,

treasurer. Miss Helen Deschler, of Ohio, was elected secretary, but declined and a meeting of the board of control was called later to determine upon a secretary.

The society decided upon a pin and also appointed its board of control, with Miss Campbell, president of the society, as its chief officer. Three members are entitled to serve two years and three have but one year. The former are Miss Deschler, Mrs. Morgan, of New York, and Mrs. Fels; while those who drew the "short" term were Miss Anna Hovey, of Kansas; Mrs. Chapin, of Washington, and Miss Hearn, of New York.

Mysterious Conferences.

During the meeting today several mysterious conferences were held in the corridors leading off from the convention hall. Miss Campbell, the fascinating presiding officer, forgot all about her dignity as head of the society and sat on the floor while her associates on the conferring committee sat about on a stairway with as much ease as if they had been on their own front steps. Certainly a society never had more earnest members than those who helped organize the Society of Naval Sponsors today.

It was decided that the annual meeting would be held in Washington either in January or February and if the girls who are here know what they are about this society is going to make more mature organizations virtually sit up and take notice.

The sponsors are receiving this afternoon with Mrs. Frazier, wife of Senator Frazier and mother of the first vice president. They will attend the White House reception tonight and then return to their homes to stir things up so that the meeting next year may be twice as large as the one which has proved so great a success.

Coming to Theaters

Smart society is expected to gather in the glitter of the footlights of the National Theater next week to welcome Ethel Barrymore in a new play, entitled "The Wizard of Oz," which her father, Charles Frohman, induced Clyde Fitch and Cosmo Gordon Lennox to write in collaboration for her during the past summer.

The company that Mrs. Barrymore includes Arthur Byron, leading man; Charles Hammond, Lumsden Hare, Desmond Kelly, Rockcliffe Fellowes, Fannie Addison Pitt, Lucille Watson, Anita Rother, and Louise Drew.

Mme. Kalich at Belasco.

Mme. Bertha Kalich is said to be winning universal approval for her acting as Marta in "Marta of the Lowlands," the Catalan drama in which she will be seen at the Belasco Theater next week, while the play itself, the manner of its production by Harrison Grey Fiske, and the ability of the supporting company are also said to evoke praise. The engagement is for one week, with a Saturday matinee only.

"Bluffs" New Comedy at Columbia.

"Bluffs" the new comedy which comes to the Columbia Theater next week, was presented for the first time in N. J. last Monday night. Its author and star is Lee Dittichstein. "Bluffs" is said to follow in the rapid fire style of fun shown in his previous pieces, such as "All On Account of Eliza," "Are You a Mason?" and "Before and After." The principal member of the supporting company is Fred Bond. The leading woman is Miss Pola La Follette, daughter of the Senator from Wisconsin.

Typewriter Girls at Chase's.

Chase's diversions next week promise an attractive bill of polite vaudeville

notables and comprises Staley's Transformation, the Willie Panzer company, Gus Edwards' Blond Typewriters with Johnnie Stanley, Harry Linton, and Anita Laurence, Clifford and Burke the Zanettos, Pauline Cook, and May Kneass, and the motion pictures of "Francesca di Rimini" or the Rival Brothers.

"The Wizard of Oz" at Academy.

"The Wizard of Oz" with its galaxy of girls, comedians, and stage effects, will be seen at the New Academy all next week. A pretty chorus is promised and it is further averred that all the girls are able to sing and dance as well as to look beautiful and wear charming costumes becomingly. Among the scenic effects are the cyclone scene and the snowstorm.

"East Lynne" at Majestic.

"East Lynne" comes to the Majestic next week, and the joys and sorrows of the beautiful Lady Isabel will be pictured next week by a company of players under the direction of Joseph K. Lee, who produced "The Ninety and Nine." The company carries a carload of scenery.

"The Strolling Players" at Lyceum.

The attraction for the week of Monday, February 24, at the New Lyceum Theater will be "The Belle of Avenue 2," described as a musical frivolity. "Bluffs" is said to follow in the rapid fire from the rise of the curtain to the final chorus. Among the members of the company are Miss Tom Hannon, Andy Rice, Tom Barry, Nat Wilson, Andy Eaton, Madge Hughes, Albert Davis, Dolly Sisters, and the Church City Quartet.

Extravaganza at Gayety.

The patrons of the Gayety Theater are promised a week of jollity commencing next week, when Harry Bryant's

LIABILITY LAWS HURT BOTH SIDES

—Launcelot Packer

Technicalities in the United States Work to Disadvantage of Laboring Class.

British Law Should Be Adopted Here, Says Economic Society Speaker.

Advocating a radical change in the law governing employers' liability for accidents that befall employees, Launcelot Packer, of the Bureau of Corporations, gave an interesting talk on workmen's compensation versus employers' liability at the Cosmos Club last night. The lecture, which was largely attended, was held under the auspices of the Washington Economic Society.

"The systems in vogue in this country and those in existence in Europe," Mr. Packer said, "are materially different. In practically every country in Europe an employers' liability law has been enacted, which provides amply for the accidents that befall the employee. In this country, when the question of damages for injuries received is assessed by a jury, in a number of cases, hardships either for the employer or for the employee is the result."

Citing some of the instances, Mr. Packer brought a tabulated sheet before the society, in which verdicts which had been rendered by juries were shown on one hand to be wholly inadequate and on the other highly excessive.

"The technicalities of the law in the United States work to the disadvantage of the workman. Employers' liability associations almost prevent reasonable verdicts for personal injuries. Dures in forcing settlements is used by these concerns, and the end the employee is the loser. This condition in some States has been slightly relieved, but on the whole the system in operation in this country should be adjusted."

Mr. Packer then advocated the adoption of a system based on the laws governing the relations between the employer and the employee in Great Britain.

"There," he said, "the present law has been in effect for ten years, and it seems to suit the contingencies. No matter what injury the employee may sustain by reason of his employment the employer is under the necessity of paying a certain amount as compensation for the injury, and this, too, whether the employee has been negligent or not. The adoption of such a system in this country would effectually prevent any hardships arising between employer and employee in regard to personal injuries received by the latter while in the course of his business."

Wornout Whips

From the House, Livery Man Begg

Representative James F. Burk of Pennsylvania is the recipient today of what is perhaps the most remarkable letter received by any member of the present Congress.

An explanation of it, the statement must be made that Burk has been named "assistant whip" for the Republicans, and in this capacity, he is charged with getting a big Republican element to attend the sessions of the House daily.

The letter, which is from one of Mr. Burk's constituents in Murdockville, Pa., reads as follows: "Dear Sir: I see by the papers that you are appointed the driver for Mr. Cannon, the Speaker, and also the whip for the House. Now, Mr. Burk, I have a livery stable in this small town, and I have lost a great many whips. If you will send me the old ones, I do not need, I will pay the express C. O. D."

A postscript is added, as follows: "It doesn't matter how old your whips are. Anything will do for my old pals. Mr. Burk has informed his constituent that the 'whip' in the House does not beat his fellow members to death with a riding whip or any other whip."

Spouse Gets Lost

On Way to Husband From Far Kresloff

GRAND FORKS, N. D., Feb. 20.—L. Danik, employed in the Great Northern round-house, has lost his wife somewhere between Grand Forks and Kresloff, Russia.

Eight months ago he sent her a ticket. After waiting several weeks he wrote to his father in Russia and learned that Mrs. Danik had left for America in September.

It is thought possible she was lost in New York.

ARIZONA WILL FIGHT FOR DELEGATES' SEATS

Arizona is planning to defy the mandate of the Republican National Committee in regard to the number of delegates entitled to seats in the Chicago convention, and will send six. The committee cut down the Territory's representation to two.

"The people of Arizona are good fighters, and will fight for their rights, which, in this case, are the rights of delegates and half a dozen alternates," said H. E. Campbell, a prominent citizen of Flagstaff, Ariz., here today.

Extravaganza will be the attraction. It is reputed to be frothy and bubbling with bright, colorful situations, and climaxes that are full of surprises and flashes of fun, and bring laughter to the surface.

Philadelphia Orchestra.

The fifth concert of the Philadelphia Orchestra will take place at the New National Theater Tuesday afternoon, February 25. The soloist will be Mme. Johanna Gadski. Beethoven's symphony No. 7 will be given on this occasion.

PROHIBITION COCKTAIL.

A Georgia cocktail is now made of Jamaica ginger and hydrant water, a glucose cherry and a dash of tobacco sauce.—Louisville Courier-Journal.